United Nations A/65/89

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Items 13, 27, 70, 107, 108, 109 and 117 of the preliminary list*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Social development

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 8 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, on behalf of the Namibian Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the text (in English and French) of the following four resolutions adopted by the 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (Bangkok, 1 April 2010) (see annex):

(a) Youth participation in the democratic process (item 27 of the preliminary list);

(b) The role of parliaments in developing South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (items 13 and 117 of the preliminary list);

(c) Cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism (corresponding to agenda items 107, 108 and 109 of the preliminary list of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

* A/65/50.

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(d) The role of parliaments in strengthening the solidarity of the international community towards the people of Haiti and Chile in the wake of devastating major disasters, and urgent actions required in all disaster-prone countries to improve disaster-risk assessment, prevention and mitigation (emergency item) (item 70 of the preliminary list).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly under items 13, 27, 70, 107, 108, 109 and 117 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Frieda N. **Ithete**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Namibia addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 122nd Assembly, held in Bangkok, 1 April 2010

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, 1 April 2010)*

The 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Emphasizing the need to prevent and counter all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on age, in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),

Noting the UN World Youth Reports 2003, 2005 and 2007,

Also noting UN General Assembly resolutions 60/2 of 6 December 2005 (Policies and programmes involving youth), 62/126 of 18 December 2007 (Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy - promoting youth participation in social and economic development) and 64/134 of 18 December 2009 (Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding),

Recognizing that children and young people are capable of forming their own views and should be assured the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, the views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, as set forth in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989),

Also recognizing that implementation of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals requires the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations,

Declaring that achieving meaningful democracy requires the full and active participation of young people and youth organizations in democratic processes at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Stressing the importance of enhancing young people's awareness of and commitment to human rights and democracy, the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding in a spirit that is respectful of diversity, and the struggle against all forms of discrimination and all actions aimed at undermining democracy; and *considering* the importance of young people's contribution to social cohesion, especially their activities to combat exclusion and prevent the ills affecting them in particular,

Bearing in mind that youth participation promotes active citizenship, which should be considered as an opportunity for enhancing democracy and placing new issues on the political agenda,

Recognizing the positive impact that youth participation in the local, regional and global economy and in social and economic development can have on the eradication of poverty and hunger, and on socially unacceptable and/or deviant behaviour,

Also recognizing that while youth today are better placed than ever before to participate in and benefit from global development, many young people remain marginalized, disconnected or excluded from the opportunities that globalization offers,

Underscoring that the involvement of young people in public decision-making processes offers important opportunities for civic engagement, education and learning about government, thus strengthening young people's social responsibility and developing their communication capacities, negotiating skills and ability to resolve conflicts through peaceful means and critical thinking,

Aiming to maximize young people's contribution to the building of society, especially in all areas which concern them, to encourage new forms of youth participation and organization, and to train young people to assume responsibilities,

Reiterating the critical role of both formal education and non-formal learning in the empowerment of young people for democratic citizenship, and *recognizing* the importance of informal learning,

Highlighting the importance of creating the conditions for genuine dialogue and partnership between young people and local and national authorities,

Recognizing youth parliaments, national and local youth councils, or their equivalent bodies as effective channels of cooperation and information exchange between young people, parliaments, national governments, local councils and other decision-making bodies,

Mindful of the importance of solidarity and dialogue between generations,

Deeply concerned by young people's dwindling interest in formal political activity, including voting and party membership, and disenchantment with politicians and political parties, which is a real threat to the future of participatory democracy,

Recognizing that young people care deeply about their political communities, and in many cases are active participants in informal political activities, such as online activism, boycotts/buycotts and third-sector initiatives,

Taking into consideration the needs and aspirations of internally displaced young people and disabled young people,

1. *Calls on* all States to take appropriate steps, in accordance with the UN World Programme of Action for Youth, to develop holistic and integrated national youth policies in consultation with youth organizations;

2. *Invites* parliaments to set up, if they have not yet done so, specialized bodies entrusted with mainstreaming youth issues in parliament's work;

3. *Urges* parliaments to monitor the fulfilment of their respective government's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure respect for children's right to be heard and express their views freely without any form of discrimination;

4. *Requests* parliaments to create the necessary platform for youth participation in the democratic process by providing a basic level of education that is equal for everyone, with the same opportunities for boys and girls;

5. *Invites* States, parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations to encourage, promote and make more visible in all fields the initiative, enterprise and creativity of young people;

6. *Calls on* the IPU, parliaments, States and non-governmental organizations to scale up investments in youth and encourage youth-led contributions to parliamentary democracy through strong partnerships and financial support, and by keeping youth participation high on the political agenda;

7. *Also calls on* the IPU, parliaments, youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen efforts aimed at achieving appropriate representation and participation of youth in decision-making bodies, bearing in mind that girls, boys, young women and young men are all entitled to the same rights;

8. *Invites* States and parliaments, as part of efforts to promote youth participation in decision-making, to ensure that youth representatives are included in national delegations to the UN General Assembly and other relevant UN meetings;

9. *Invites* the IPU, parliaments and States to identify the lines of action for youth participation on which they intend to concentrate, to define concrete measures and/or action plans for their implementation, to promote these plans with regional and local authorities, youth organizations and young people, and to cooperate closely with regional and local authorities in order to ensure the fullest possible implementation;

10. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that young people with disabilities and those who are socially and economically underprivileged are afforded equal opportunities to participate fully in society;

11. *Encourages* the IPU and parliaments to develop tools to promote youth knowledge of and participation in the democratic process, including, but not limited to, guidelines for participatory mechanisms or interactive policy-making forums;

12. *Calls on* parliaments to promote youth awareness of and participation in the political process by using modern information and communication technologies (ICTs) to reach out to young people and increase access to information on the democratic process;

13. *Calls on* parliaments to develop practical measures (such as the possible introduction of quotas for young people) to increase the participation of young people in parliament and other representative bodies, while respecting the values of human dignity, freedom, democracy and equality;

14. *Recommends* that parliaments align the minimum voting age with the minimum age of eligibility to run for office in order to ensure greater participation by youth in parliaments;

15. *Urges* States, parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations to promote greater participation by girls and young women by taking measures aimed at promoting role models and facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;

16. *Invites* States, parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations to open up "adult institutions" and administrative bodies, particularly those with planning responsibilities, to young people's representatives and establish links between these institutions and young people in a spirit of complementarity and joint decision-making;

17. *Calls on* States, parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations to take targeted action to enhance the participation of young people in political parties and elections at the local, national and regional levels;

18. *Requests* parliaments to provide political and financial support, notably adequate operating budgets, to form strong youth parliaments, youth councils or equivalent bodies and to strengthen existing ones, thus providing further opportunities for more young people to become active in decision-making and in shaping their societies;

19. *Urges* States to make instruction in democracy and civics an integral part of the compulsory school curriculum;

20. *Encourages* States to ensure adequate funding for formal education and non-formal learning, including programmes aimed at fostering the acquisition of the skills required for the democratic participation of youth;

21. *Invites* States to promote student participation, initiative and creativity as valuable resources in teaching, learning and other school activities, and to stimulate active citizenship via the education system;

22. *Also invites* States to create all the necessary conditions to form student councils in schools through which students can acquire valuable first-hand experience in decision-making;

23. *Encourages* States to ensure special training for teachers and other persons working with children and youth in youth participation and to implement best practices in the field of youth participation;

24. *Urges* States to remove the social, economic and cultural barriers affecting young women and to ensure they have equal access to education and vocational training at all levels in order to provide them with equal opportunities for full participation in society, especially political participation;

25. *Encourages* States to introduce gender-sensitive compulsory education for young men and young women in order to nurture their awareness of gender issues, the problem of low rates of democratic participation by women, and the need to actively support women's democratic participation;

26. *Encourages* States to support voluntary service by youth and internship programmes at all levels, whether locally, nationally or internationally, to recognize and evaluate the skills and knowledge gained through these activities, and, in particular, to promote the participation of young people who feel excluded from voluntary activities;

27. *Recommends* that States develop national ICT strategies to overcome the barriers of distance and socio-economic disadvantage and ensure that young people are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to use ICTs appropriately, while also promoting the involvement of young people in public debates and the development of policy through ICTs, remembering that such digital tools are not necessarily a panacea for youth's disenchantment with formal politics and should be viewed as one of many means that can be used to engage youth in democracy;

28. *Calls on* parliaments to establish and promote coherent, overarching youth information strategies which, in a youth-friendly way, address all issues relevant to young people, to develop special web-based information and information centres for young people, and to facilitate access to information for young people with fewer opportunities;

29. *Invites* States to set up contact points for young people in ministries and other government agencies so as to provide young people with information, listen to their problems, offer advice and encourage them in their quest for services and participation;

30. *Encourages* political parties to increase the number of young people in their membership and enhance young members' participation in party life and decision-making;

31. *Invites* parliaments to facilitate the meaningful participation of young people in issues that affect them through consultation processes when drafting laws and during parliamentary hearings, to ensure that they contribute to debates on policy- and law-making, resource allocation, and parliament's efforts to hold government to account;

32. *Calls on* the IPU and its Member Parliaments to form caucuses of young parliamentarians in order to promote youth participation, making young persons in politics more visible and reflecting the youth perspective in the political agenda;

33. *Encourages* parliamentarians and appointed officials at all levels to give maximum support to young parliamentarians and young appointed officials, thus helping to create a youth-friendly and accessible environment;

34. *Requests* the IPU to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations to ensure that youth inputs are duly shared with IPU bodies during their deliberations;

35. *Welcomes* the participation of young members of parliament in national parliamentary delegations and *urges* IPU Member Parliaments to systematically include young members of parliament in their delegations to IPU Assemblies and other IPU meetings;

36. *Urges* the IPU and its Member Parliaments to collect, on a continuous basis, youth-specific data disaggregated by age and sex in order to create comprehensive databases related to youth and young parliamentarians, and to devise the means of disseminating such data widely with a view to ensuring that interest in youth development is informed by sound and accurate data and to developing, assessing and disseminating best practices in democracy education and youth participation;

37. *Requests* the IPU to incorporate youth participation into its activities along the lines of the measures that have been taken to promote women's participation;

38. *Urges* the IPU to establish mechanisms for monitoring, analysing, evaluating and exchanging information on parliamentary action in the context of the promotion and implementation of youth participation;

39. *Encourages* the IPU to launch a project for youth to be implemented in partnership with the UN Programme on Youth, which is part of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

* *The delegation of India expressed its opposition to paragraph 14 of the resolution.*

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN DEVELOPING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WITH A VIEW TO ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 122nd IPU Assembly*
(Bangkok, 1 April 2010)

The 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Deeply concerned about the adverse impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable nations and sectors of the global community and on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015,

Bearing in mind that the current financial and economic crisis has its origins in developed countries, and that a broad international dialogue, conducted under United Nations auspices with the active participation of all countries, is required to lead the world on the path of economic and social recovery,

Concerned that, according to the forecasts of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and regional development banks, foreign direct investment in and remittances to developing countries, especially in Africa, will have declined dramatically in 2009-2010,

Underscoring the importance of increased financing for development, including the need to meet the long-standing target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries, of wider and deeper debt relief to developing countries, and of ongoing efforts aimed at identifying additional, innovative sources of financing for South-South and triangular cooperation,

Noting **that, although ODA from OECD-DAC countries (Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation-Development Assistance Committee) rose by 10 per cent in real terms in 2008 (after an 8.5 per cent decline in 2007), it probably declined again in 2009, owing to the economic crisis,**

Recalling **that MDG 8 (Develop a global partnership for development) calls for an open, non-discriminatory trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction, both nationally and internationally,**

Noting **that, according to the UN Secretary-General, important progress has been made towards all eight MDGs, but the world community is not on track to fulfil its commitments, especially in sub-Saharan Africa,**

Recalling **UN General Assembly resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003 (Economic and technical cooperation between developing countries), which proclaims 19 December United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation,**

Taking note **of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting, held in New York on 25 September 2003, in which they once again underscored the importance and increased relevance of South-South cooperation,**

Noting **the G20 Summit held on 2 April 2009 in London and its willingness to boost the global economy, in particular by disbursing US$ 50 billion to developing countries to counteract the economic and social effects of the crisis and thereby strengthen human development in those countries,**

Recalling **the relevant IPU resolutions, in particular those adopted at the 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Copenhagen, 1994) on *International co-operation and national action to support social and economic development and efforts to combat poverty*, the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Jakarta, 2000) on *Financing for development and a new***

paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty, the 107th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Marrakech, 2002) on *The role of parliaments in developing public policy in an era of globalisation, multilateral institutions and international trade agreements*, the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005) on *The role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, the 115th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 2006) on *The role of parliaments in overseeing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to the problem of debt and the eradication of poverty and corruption*, the 118th IPU Assembly (Cape Town, 2008) on *Parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid* and the 120th IPU Assembly (Addis Ababa, 2009) on *The role of parliaments in mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa*,

Deeply concerned that climate change poses risks that may unravel many advances in reducing poverty, compounding the negative consequences of the economic crisis,

Welcoming the outcome document of the Eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI), which salutes the important role of parliaments in international development cooperation,

Recalling the reports of the UN Secretary-General entitled *The state of South-South cooperation* (23 August 2007 and 24 August 2009) and *Promotion of South-South cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective* (27 October 2009),

Considering that the outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South-Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, fails to mention the positive role that parliaments can and should play to develop South-South cooperation and make it more efficient,

Underscoring that in a globalized world, South-South and triangular cooperation are more important than ever to achieve sustainable development in developing countries, given that economic development, social progress and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing goals,

Recalling that the South has a number of success stories, best practices and lessons learned in addressing major development challenges, such as microfinance, which have brought about a profound societal transformation in many countries, such as Bangladesh,

Aware that South-South cooperation has a long history (the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation was established in the late 1970s) and an essential role to play in developing countries,

Convinced that organizations within the UN system, due to their universal membership, neutrality and political independence, represent essential vehicles to catalyse, support and strengthen South-South cooperation,

Recalling that financing for development, as set forth in the Monterrey Consensus, is about tapping all available resources, not only development assistance and debt relief, but also financing from domestic resources, fair trade, foreign investment and remittances, all of which are all complementary,

Noting the growing volume of ODA flows from southern contributors, and *observing* a lack of accessible and comprehensive information on these flows,

Considering that there is a need for standards, rules and regulatory frameworks that are able to enhance South-South cooperation, as well as for methodologies for gathering information on South-South flows of assistance and other forms of cooperation,

Noting that the private sector, civil society actors and individuals are assuming a new and dynamic role in South-South cooperation,

Underscoring that achieving the internationally agreed development goals will not be possible without progress on gender equality and women's empowerment,

Emphasizing that women are active and successful in building South-South non-governmental networks for improving their status and addressing major economic, social, environmental and political concerns,

Noting that the agenda for South-South cooperation has expanded significantly to include not only economic and technical cooperation, but also good governance, health and disease control, environmental issues and transnational security threats,

Also noting that capacity-building programmes in the framework of South-South cooperation have made a significant contribution to the achievement of the MDGs,

Strongly concerned that some donor countries tend to make light of the weakness of democratic governance in beneficiary countries in order to acquire their natural resources,

Noting that OECD donor countries have partnered with middle-income developing countries to provide development assistance to the least developed countries,

Considering that the rationale underlying triangular development cooperation is that southern countries, which are still themselves developing, are better placed and have the relevant experience to respond to the needs and problems of other developing countries,

Underscoring that triangular development cooperation programmes can be more cost effective,

Considering that regional integration is an essential process which can overcome, by common accord, political, physical, economic and social barriers that divide countries from their neighbours and foster collaboration leading to economic growth, expansion of regional trade and investment, management of shared resources, regional public goods and climate change, and the prevention of disasters,

Stressing in this respect that regional and subregional organizations play a prominent role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and are important partners of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security,

Also stressing that South-South cooperation and integration are highly complementary to North-South cooperation, along with regional integration among developing countries,

Considering that regional initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and the Pacific Plan may further enhance regional cooperation with a view to meeting development, democracy, good governance and security challenges,

Aware that no single model of regional integration can be imposed since all integration strategies have to be adapted to particular interests and circumstances, but that general features can nonetheless be identified which impede or foster integration processes,

1. *Calls on* Northern and Southern parliaments and governments to support and develop South-South and triangular cooperation as an important tool to achieve the MDGs;

2. *Invites* Southern and Northern parliaments and governments to align their South-South cooperation agenda with the MDGs;

3. *Urges* Southern parliaments and governments to see to it that the funds allocated to MDG-related programmes and sectors are effectively used for these programmes;

4. *Invites* Southern parliaments and governments to implement the results of the successive South summits;

5. *Also invites* Southern parliaments and governments to take legislative or other initiatives in support of South-South cooperation efforts that foster achievement of the MDGs;

6. *Recommends* that donor parliaments and governments, in addition to traditional bilateral and multilateral aid flows, contribute to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation to ensure sufficient funding for South-South projects and initiatives;

7. *Urges* parliaments to ask their governments to ensure that future UN documents on South-South cooperation make due mention of the important role that parliaments have to play in fostering South-South cooperation and making it more efficient;

8. *Calls on* the United Nations, working with other global institutions, to establish an effective mechanism to monitor, discuss and evaluate the progress and delivery of the commitments made by the international community in support of South-South and triangular cooperation for development, while ensuring they are oriented towards achieving the MDGs;

9. *Invites* the UN and its specialized agencies, such as UNDP and UNCTAD, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of South-South cooperation by better coordinating and streamlining the various institutions, initiatives and guidelines dealing with it, especially within the UN system;

10. *Invites* Northern parliaments and governments to ensure that a substantial part of development assistance serves to promote South-South and triangular cooperation;

11. *Recommends* that Northern parliaments require their governments to allocate a substantial part of their ODA to triangular cooperation mechanisms which, besides being more cost effective, allow successful Southern donor countries to share their experiences and best practices;

12. *Urges* Southern donor parliaments and governments to develop good practices concerning South-South ODA and cooperation, taking into consideration, among others, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action;

13. *Invites* Southern donor governments to renounce tied aid in favour of other forms of support that fully take into account the needs of the recipient countries and are in line with their national development strategies;

14. *Also invites* donor and beneficiary country parliaments and governments to put in place consistent and transparent accounting of both North-South and South-South ODA flows, and of other forms of cooperation, including in-kind contributions and shared natural and knowledge resources;

15. *Recommends* that Northern and Southern parliaments increase oversight of their South-South and triangular cooperation activities;

16. *Requests* Southern parliaments to strengthen mechanisms to oversee government implementation of development plans and programmes and regional and subregional agreements that focus specifically on the MDGs;

17. *Invites* Southern parliaments and governments to analyse how South-South approaches can be applied to development issues and how policies and projects that have succeeded in reducing poverty in some developing countries could be replicated elsewhere to accelerate achievement of the MDGs;

18. ***Also invites*** **Southern parliaments and governments to conclude the São Paulo round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), which has the potential to generate significant additional trade flows;**

19. ***Calls on*** **Northern and Southern countries that are in a position to comply to give duty-free and quota-free market access to all exports from the least developed countries, including the 3 per cent of tariff lines that are currently covered by the tariff line exclusion (with the exception of arms);**

20. ***Invites*** **Southern parliaments and governments to improve the platforms for exchanging views among developing countries on South-South cooperation, flows of trade and direct investments in order to coordinate their actions in these areas;**

21. ***Encourages*** **Northern parliaments and governments to make Aid for Trade available for enhancing South-South cooperation;**

22. ***Invites*** **Northern parliaments to encourage their governments to urge multilateral institutions, such as the Bretton Woods institutions and regional development banks, to develop and foster the implementation of programmes that promote trade and investment between countries of the South;**

23. ***Encourages*** **Southern parliaments and governments to actively promote South-South investment and technology transfers by ensuring a secure and stable investment environment, thereby reducing transactions costs and enhancing legal security;**

24. ***Invites*** **parliaments to actively support South-South non-governmental networks created by women for improving their status and addressing major economic, social, environmental and political concerns;**

25. ***Calls*** **on both Northern and Southern parliaments to step up their support for the parliamentary structures of regional organizations in order to consolidate the regional integration and cooperation required to achieve the MDGs;**

26. ***Invites*** **parliaments and governments to recapitalize Southern regional development banks in order to help establish or develop regional development funds;**

27. ***Also invites*** **Southern parliaments and governments to develop South-South regional cooperation in order to manage regional public goods, including water resources, ecological assets such as cross-border forest basins or natural reserves and cross-border energy resources, and control disease more efficiently;**

28. ***Encourages*** **Southern regional and national parliaments to hold their governments to account for their efforts to achieve the MDGs through South-South cooperation mechanisms and *requests* that the oversight capacity of these parliaments be strengthened in this respect;**

29. ***Also encourages*** **regional and subregional parliaments to promote and immediately initiate an exchange of information and best practices on South-South and triangular cooperation strategies and initiatives, and *also invites* governments to facilitate such exchanges in cooperation with national parliaments and the UN system;**

30. ***Urges*** **Northern donor parliaments to ensure that their governments honour ODA commitments, despite the economic crisis, given the importance of predictable aid flows for the realization of South-South and triangular cooperation;**

31. ***Urges*** **parliaments to oversee implementation of the present resolution and government action to implement the recommendations of the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.**

* ***The delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) expressed reservations on preambular paragraph 24 in relation to the concept of "gender equality".***

COOPERATION AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, IN PARTICULAR DRUG TRAFFICKING, ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFICKING, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 122nd IPU Assembly*
(Bangkok, 1 April 2010)

The 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Cognizant of the fact that while globalization fosters many positive advancements, interdependence between States and the opening of borders, it also has a negative effect, that of facilitating transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms trafficking, trafficking in persons, cross-border terrorism and money laundering, and that this requires the implementation of relevant international and domestic legal instruments,

Recalling that 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and of its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/194 of 18 December 2008 (Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons) and Human Rights Council resolution 11/3 of 17 June 2009 (Trafficking in persons, especially women and children),

Also recalling the resolution of the 118th IPU Assembly (Cape Town, 2008), on *The role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy*,

Recalling the resolutions on combating terrorism adopted by the IPU at its 108th Conference (Santiago de Chile, 2003) and its 111th (Geneva, 2004), 115th (Geneva, 2006) and 116th (Bali, 2007) Assemblies,

Aware that drug trafficking is one of the principal illicit activities worldwide, that it constitutes a serious threat to the global community, and that, when compounded by drug abuse, it is not only harmful to the stability and integrity of the world, but also adversely affects the health of human beings and the security of families, communities and society at large, and hinders development plans and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in different countries,

Convinced that any effort to effectively combat the trafficking of agriculturally produced drugs must incorporate a reduction in the amount of land cultivated for that purpose, and that this goal implies the implementation of incentive programmes for alternative crop cultivation,

Aware that trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery and a human rights violation affecting men, women and children worldwide, that certain practices, negative attitudes and maltreatment of trafficked victims persist and that the well-being of these vulnerable groups is further threatened by the global financial and economic downturn and new forms of transnational organized crime,

Recognizing that migrant smuggling is often facilitated by organized crime networks, generating huge profits for the smugglers while exposing irregular migrants to serious personal risks and making them vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

Recognizing the nexus between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in arms, cybercrime, cross-border terrorism, money laundering and the financing of terrorism,

Considering that illegal arms trafficking contributes to conflict, the displacement of persons, crime and terrorism, thereby undermining global peace, safety and security,

Recalling that in its resolution 64/48 of 2 December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene an international conference on the arms trade treaty in 2012 to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms,

Mindful that the phenomenon of cross-border terrorism continues to represent a substantial threat to peace and security in the world, and continues to endanger political institutions, economic stability and the welfare of nations,

Recognizing the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever changing means used by transnational criminal organizations, including the increasing use of the Internet, global positioning system (GPS) techniques and other geographical information systems, to avoid detection and prosecution,

Appreciating the positive roles of the IPU, governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in joint parliamentary activities to combat transnational organized crime, such as drafting stringent legislative measures to combat the financing of terrorism and cross-border terrorism, and implementing the parliamentary measures set forth in the joint IPU-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) publication, *Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*,

1. *Fully affirms* the strong determination and clear commitment of IPU Member Parliaments to strengthen and harmonize drug-related laws, regulations and additional measures, pursue strong regional cooperation to combat drug trafficking. within the framework of international cooperation, with international legal instruments on drugs, and enhance the technical capability of law enforcement and judicial authorities;

2. *Reaffirms* the strong determination of IPU Member Parliaments to strengthen laws against corruption and transnational organized crime and *calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to fully implement their provisions;

3. *Also reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to ensure that all aspects of laws on drugs and organized crime are in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Also reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to intensify efforts to counter the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, abuse, transit, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, especially heroin, cocaine and its derivatives, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), the diversion of precursor chemicals, misuse of pharmaceutical medicines and preparations as well as drug-related criminal activities, through a balanced, comprehensive, sustainable and gender-sensitive approach;

5. *Agrees* to develop and strengthen partnerships and cooperation mechanisms for combating drug trafficking on the international, regional and bilateral levels, and to ensure that these mechanisms are effective and achieve their goals;

6. *Decides* to intensify joint parliamentary efforts to share best practices and experiences in combating drug trafficking and developing national laws that comply with international standards and uphold the rule of law;

7. *Calls on* countries where agriculturally produced drugs are made and consumed to cooperate with a view to developing and implementing assistance programmes for the farmers concerned in order to encourage them to turn to alternative crop cultivation in economically viable conditions;

8. *Encourages* parliaments to mainstream gender equality concerns in all legislation and oversight practices (including the formulation, enforcement and monitoring of laws and budgets) to ensure that women and children are protected from all forms of abuse and that they are provided with legal, medical and other forms of assistance;

9. *Invites* IPU Member Parliaments to ensure that international cooperation actions and measures are enhanced and strengthened by way of technical assistance to agents in charge of combating organized crime;

10. *Calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to foster dialogue and cooperation with a view to developing and harmonizing efforts to combat the production, abuse and trafficking of illicit drugs and counterfeit medicines, and the misuse of drugs, noting that enhanced technological capabilities enable counterfeiters to produce drugs and packaging that can barely be distinguished from the original product;

11. *Calls on* parliaments to urge their respective governments to tighten controls of goods passing through their territory;

12. *Urges* IPU Member Parliaments to support tax exemption and other initiatives in respect of products grown or produced by alternative development projects on lands formerly devoted to the production of illicit drugs, and for individuals and private-sector companies that contribute to such projects or other drug control activities, in compliance with World Trade Organization rules and regulations, as incentives to combat the drug menace;

13. *Encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to support national efforts against illegal arms trafficking and, where appropriate, strengthen national laws in this regard;

14. *Also encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to support and participate in the development of a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, building on arms transfer principles already established in existing regional and multilateral arms control agreements;

15. *Invites* the IPU to seriously discuss the possibility of harmonizing laws on trafficking in persons in each country to ensure compatibility and seamless cooperation in order to combat trafficking in persons;

16. *Also invites* IPU Member Parliaments to be more proactive in combating trafficking in persons and other forms of exploitation such as child pornography, by drawing up and implementing a comprehensive work plan and laws that are consistent with international standards, criminalize trafficking and other forms of exploitation and include prevention, protection and assistance measures;

17. *Calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to heighten public awareness, including through enhanced cooperation with civil society, to promote cooperation in the fight against trafficking in persons, to tackle the root causes of the problem such as poverty, gender inequality, oppression, lack of human rights protection, and lack of social or economic opportunities, and to enhance awareness by the competent authorities of the need to preserve the human rights of trafficked victims and their families, taking into account the special needs of women and children;

18. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage governments to tighten entry and exit controls of children and to monitor adoptions and the activities of associations and non-governmental organizations working with minors;

19. *Encourages* IPU Member Parliaments, in line with the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to support the establishment up of mechanisms to monitor the human rights impact of anti-trafficking laws, policies, programmes and interventions;

20. *Also encourages* States to protect the victims of trafficking in persons by establishing rehabilitation programmes that also comprise medical and psychological care, social and legal assistance, education and training;

21. *Calls on* the IPU to provide its Member Parliaments with recommendations and best practices for the establishment of a special parliamentary committee on combating trafficking in persons, and for the appointment of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism to monitor the development and implementation of national measures to combat trafficking in persons, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation of relevant national action plans once they have been put in place;

22. *Urges* IPU Member Parliaments to ensure that all measures taken to combat terrorism are in line with their respective State's international obligations, in particular international human rights standards, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, notably to ensure protection of the rights of victims of terrorism and of the individual right to privacy;

23. *Calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to take into account, in exercising their legislative and oversight functions, the fact that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group, and hence profiling based on any of these factors should not be used by national and transnational agencies in their efforts to combat terrorism;

24. *Invites* IPU Member Parliaments to strengthen their respective legal systems in accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism with a view to combating money laundering and financing of terrorist activities and to ensure that all measures taken are in line with their respective State's international obligations;

25. *Calls on* States to take all the necessary measures to combat terrorism, in particular by preventing their territories from being used for cross-border terrorist acts and by swiftly bringing to justice the persons or entities in their territory that participate in these acts;

26. *Calls on* States to adhere to all relevant United Nations resolutions, conventions and international agreements and to take measures to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its manifestations and forms;

27. *Invites* the United Nations to consider convening an international conference on the fight against terrorism, with a view to evaluating progress in meeting international commitments, analysing the impact of new forms of terrorism, and determining whether existing national legislation does indeed meet international humanitarian and human rights standards;

28. *Calls for* universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and *invites* parliaments to support the effective functioning of the newly established UNCAC review mechanism;

29. *Also urges* national parliaments to adopt legislation providing more stringent penalties for corruption and organized crime, and to apply standards of good governance, accountability and transparency in public institutions with a view to combating corruption;

30. *Urges* the IPU to promote international cooperation to combat financial safe havens in the form of extradition agreements, confiscation and forfeiture of assets, social sanctions, mutual legal assistance, and good governance in order to combat money laundering;

31. *Invites* IPU Member States to undertake a thorough evaluation and screening of officials in charge of public institutions with a view to preventing their involvement in activities related to transnational organized crime;

32. *Recommends* the establishment of enhanced mechanisms for international cooperation, particularly among intelligence services and systems, in the fight against organized crime, while, at the same time, affirming that information shared in the course of these cooperative efforts should be used only for the purpose for which it was originally provided and in the light of each country's specificities;

33. *Invites* IPU Member Parliaments from donor countries to promote development cooperation programmes aimed at upgrading criminal justice systems in countries vulnerable to organized crime;

34. *Also recommends* that the fight against transnational organized crime be strengthened and intensified so as to foster lasting solutions through the promotion of human rights and equitable socioeconomic conditions;

35. *Invites* parliamentarians to make use of the technical services and expertise provided by UNODC in specialized workshops and training courses, and to call on the United Nations General Assembly in cases related to crime prevention, international drug control and the fight against terrorism.

* *The delegation of Iran (Islamic Republic of) expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 8 in relation to the concept of "gender equality".*

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN STRENGTHENING THE SOLIDARITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF HAITI AND CHILE IN THE WAKE OF DEVASTATING MAJOR DISASTERS, AND URGENT ACTIONS REQUIRED IN ALL DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE DISASTER-RISK ASSESSMENT, PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 122nd IPU Assembly
(Bangkok, 1 April 2010)

The 122nd Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging the growing evidence that both disasters and climate change hit poor nations and communities the hardest, and that disaster-risk reduction for immediate climate change adaptation is a strategic step towards sustainable development,

Considering that in recent months a devastating earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, and that another struck off the coast of Chile, causing considerable damage to both countries,

Further considering that more than 200,000 lives were lost in the earthquake in Haiti, which caused damage and losses amounting to an estimated US$ 7.8 billion (US$ 4.3 billion in physical damage and US$ 3.5 billion in economic losses), or the equivalent of more than 120 per cent of Haiti's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009, and that the earthquake in Chile caused damage and losses estimated at between US$ 15 and 30 billion, or the equivalent of 15 per cent of Chile's GDP,

Considering that Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, is also facing severe problems of food security as a consequence of the disaster,

Acknowledging that the growing frequency, intensity and impact of disasters pose a significant threat to people's lives and livelihoods, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Mindful of the different ways such disasters can affect each country depending on its vulnerabilities, but *convinced* that international humanitarian action must reach all those who have been affected, while taking account of local initiatives to provide relief,

Recognizing that the poor account for the majority of all people killed in disasters, and that it is the combination of hazards such as floods and tropical storms, with an exposed, vulnerable and ill-prepared population or community, that causes disasters,

Stressing that the international community and governments urgently need to establish frameworks and measures to help poor countries and communities adapt to climate change while continuing to engage in debate and negotiation on climate change mitigation,

Recalling that the resolution on natural disasters adopted unanimously by the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005) proposed that nations further strengthen their cooperation in disaster-prevention efforts, and *recognizing* that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which was endorsed by 168 governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, lays the groundwork for the implementation of disaster-risk reduction and specifically identifies the need to promote the integration of risk reduction into existing climate variability and future climate change strategies,

1. *Commends* the efforts made by the national authorities of Haiti and Chile to cope with the disasters, *welcomes* the outpouring of solidarity towards their peoples in the wake of the devastating disaster, and *requests* governments to contribute further to it and promote continued mobilization of civil society for the benefit of those countries, taking account of the needs expressed by the Chilean and Haitian authorities and, in the case of Haiti, of the added complication of the almost total destruction of the country's infrastructure;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the disaster assistance currently being received by the Haitian Government to be followed up with aid for as long as is necessary for the long-term reconstruction of the country

and establishment of a self-sufficient State that is able to provide its people with better living conditions;

3. *Calls upon* governments to take both urgent and structural measures to make disaster-risk assessment an integral part of post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction planning and for programmes to protect people from future disasters;

4. *Urges* governments to assess all their critical public facilities, such as schools and hospitals, with a view to making them resilient to earthquakes, floods and storms, and to make disaster-risk reduction a part of poverty reduction and of all planning and programmes aimed at achieving the MDGs and the ensuing long-term welfare of the people;

5. *Also urges* governments to pay close attention to the protection of women and children in post-disaster situations, which can leave them particularly vulnerable to abuse, including trafficking;

6. *Also urges* governments to further coordinate their international relief, reconstruction and recovery activities, among themselves and with humanitarian bodies, and to take concrete action to enhance people's understanding of and capacity to address the impact of climate change and disaster-risk reduction through public awareness, education and training;

7. *Also urges* all parliaments to foster the strong political will and allocate the budget funds needed to develop a national legal framework designed to ensure synergy between disaster-risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and between disaster-risk reduction and poverty reduction and socio-economic development, so as to protect the best interests of those vulnerable to geological and climate-related disasters.